

May 1, 2018

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

Chairman Foust called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 7:00 p.m. at the Erie County Council Chambers, 140 West 6th Street, Room 117, Erie, PA. Following the Pledge of Allegiance:

Mrs. Loll commented that one of the Council members recently had a very serious surgery and is doing fine. He will need to rest and she stated that Mr. Leone is a wonderful member of Council and they are so glad that he is doing fine and everything is well. Mrs. Loll then read the following prayer:

“Let us pray. God help us not to waste the hours, for time is the only thing that cannot be bought. Help us not to be frustrated but hold on to hopes. We do not want to take anything for granted. Let not our anger burst into view destructively or indifference that wills mother us. We do not want to hold suspicions wrongly, for we need to trust and not betray. As we work toward the good for all people help us not to compromise our views. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ”.

Roll Call

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the County Clerk called the roll:

Members Present: Mr. Anderson
Mrs. Fatica
Mr. Horton
Mrs. Loll
Mr. Rastetter
Dr. Foust

Members Absent: Mr. Leone

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk
Sue Ellen Pasquale, Manager of Accounting
James Sparber, Director of Finance
Thomas Talarico, Solicitor

**Special Presentation
To Sue Ellen & Luigi Pasquale**

Dr. Foust presented both Sue Ellen and Luigi Pasquale with a citation in appreciation for their many years of work for the County. He stated that it is good when good people move on from different stages of their life and enjoy life in their different ways. Today is Luigi and Sue Ellen Pasquale’s last Council meeting. He commented that in reading the citation and realizing all they have been involved in: some 150,000 hours at least, many of those not on the clock; 56 combined years of experience, and like most members of Council, they are probably two of the first people one would meet coming into County government. He said they are two of the nicest people one would ever meet. He is certain they have the undying gratitude of most members of Council that have served, but certainly the hundreds of thousands of citizens of Erie County who have benefitted from their hard work over those years to save money for the taxpayers, to make sure that the facilities are in proper order, to make sure that the budget is in proper order, and the advice and information that they have provided members of Council has been invaluable to all. He wished them both the very best on their retirement.

Mrs. Pasquale thanked Council and members in the audience. They had friends and family in attendance. She really appreciated the kind words that Council has for them. She stated it has been a wonderful experience, a pleasure to be a very small part of so many different projects, so many different budgets, so many different issues. She hopes that the citizens of Erie realize how many good people work for Erie County and how people really do care. There are a lot of tough decisions in front of Council and a lot of work goes into it. She thanked Council from the bottom of her heart for everything. Mr. Pasquale echoed the words of his wife and thanked Council.

May 1, 2018

Mr. Horton commented that he has known Mr. Pasquale for many years and stated they are many years away from the football field and little gridders football. He said the same grit, integrity, and friendly demeanor they exhibit on a daily basis, to have a friend that remains the same as he has been all of his life is something. The County hasn't changed him but he has changed the County. Through him, he met Mrs. Pasquale. Being new to Council, he worked with Mrs. Pasquale and knew when she gave the numbers, he could take them to the bank. He could count on it and never proven to be more evident than her work with Mr. Maloney on the community college effort. The work poured into it and the way she carried herself in completing her duties, she is going to be missed. 280,000 citizens in Erie County may not know the value that she has, but he knows and Council knows. He said he appreciates both of them and thanked them for their years of dedication.

Mrs. Fatica commented that she recognized the hard work of Sue Ellen and Luigi on a daily basis when she was a County employee. The amount of hours and dedication that the two of them contributed to the County and the additional help they gave her when she became a member of Council, no one deserves this retirement and enjoyment of being grandparents more than they do. She wished them the best on their retirement and thanked them for everything they have done.

Mrs. Loll commented that she has relied on both of them. Mr. Pasquale has helped her solve problems with things that happened in her municipality, and Mrs. Pasquale on the budget, which she knew inside and out. Between the two of them, they have touched every aspect of Erie County and the citizens of Erie County would admire them if they knew what both of them have contributed to the County and for all that they have done. She thanked them both and wished them good luck on their retirement.

Mr. Anderson commented that he has been involved in the community for a number of years and there isn't one aspect or project that he's been involved in that most of the people if not everyone involved had advised to speak to Mr. Pasquale for maintenance or building and grounds, and anything with numbers to speak to Mrs. Pasquale. He knows the respect they have from prior Council members and prior County Executives and it is unmatched. He stated it has been a pleasure to work with them and he will miss having the opportunity to continue this working relationship. They are great citizens of the community and they will be missed.

Mr. Rastetter commented that he hasn't known them very long but said they are the most welcoming people in the courthouse. He really appreciates everything they have done and stated they are the sunshine in the courthouse.

Hearing of The Public

David Moore; Edinboro, PA; Mr. Moore stated he represents 26,000 followers of the Pennsylvania Equality Project. An organization dedicated to fighting for full equality and fairness under the law for the LGBTQ community of Pennsylvania. He is also the founder of the Gay/Straight Alliance at Conneaut Area Senior High School. He has spoken with students firsthand who have survived conversion therapy attempts. He knows firsthand the pain they have endured. He is also a ten year survivor of papillary thyroid cancer and as a result is retired from teaching. He spoke about the need to implement a ban on conversion therapy in Erie County. He stated that LGBTQ is not a disease and requires no cure. There is conversion therapy in 40 states and nothing under PA law prevents that from happening in Erie County. He gave statistics about the harmful effects of conversion therapy. He stated that the American Academy of Child/Adolescent Psychiatry and AMA opposes conversion therapy. He stated that Philadelphia, Allentown, Reading, and Doylestown Boro, State College passed legislation on banning conversion therapy. He urged Council to consider passing legislation in support of banning conversion therapy. He stated that these comments are posted online.

Randy Barnes, Harborcreek, PA; Mr. Barnes spoke about Northern PA Regional College, formerly known as the Rural Regional College; he stated that there were letters from CE, Mike Batchelor to Sen. Wiley to encourage him to push for Erie to be included in the Northern PA Regional College. He asked if Council has asked representatives of the Northern PA Regional College to come and discuss the college, the new programs, the new location in Union City. He wondered how many

May 1, 2018

people in Union City know that. He commented that no one knows about this college. He stated that representatives should be telling constituents about it. Tax dollars are paying for this college and felt it is a waste that the County Executive and Council members are not talking about this community college. He stated he will get the word out to the communities to let them know about it. He stated he is already paying for the Northern PA Regional College and cannot afford to pay for a competing college as well.

Joseph Giles, Erie, PA; gave his personal gratitude to Sue Ellen and Luigi Pasquale and has known them for nearly 40 years and they have been dedicated to the County all that time. Mr. Giles then discussed the Poet Laureate Initiative. He stated that Berwyn Moore, former Laureate, will be retiring and then discussed her first anthology. Mr. Giles then told the story about meeting President Obama the day after Bin Laden was killed where he gave the President the anthology of Ms. Moore's. He sincerely thanked Council for their support of the project. He also stated that CCAP did a time capsule and Mr. Giles gave the anthology to be placed in the time capsule. He then discussed Berwyn getting national award for writing. Mr. Giles expressed that the people in the project are outstanding individuals and spoke of Marisa Moks-Unger, current Poet Laureate, and the irony that she did an anthology with 20 local writers. The competition for a new Poet Laureate will begin this summer. He then presented Council with Berwyn Moore's last project. It's something to add to their edification to what's happening in writing. He again thanked Council for their continued support of the initiative.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Loll moved to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2018, Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Reports of
County Officials**

Mrs. Fatica stated that the Finance Committee met on April 26, 2018, and agreed to place Ordinances 36 through 40 under New Business on the agenda, along with six board and authority appointments.

Dr. Foust stated that the Personnel Committee met immediately following the Finance Committee meeting and agreed to place Ordinances 41 and 42 under New Business.

Mrs. Loll read the following report:

“I attended the Assessment meeting on April 12th and the meeting opened up with the veterans exemptions. There were three new approvals, one renewal, and five removals from the exemption list. At the last meeting, they had asked for information on GEEDC to help them make a decision as to the status of the exemption. They had received the lease agreement and information from the Knox Law Firm that argued they should be exempt and examples to support their case. The exemption was discussed and voted on and decided by unanimous vote that GEEDC is not exempt for 2019. GEEDC will have 30 days to appeal the decision. The rest of the meeting was done under Executive Session.

I also attended the Erie County Planning Commission Meeting on April 26th. They had the election of officers at that time. Charles Casey was elected President and Jim Cardman was elected Vice President. There was a report on the newly formed Land Bank Board. They are working on the ideas brought from the members and trying to form bylaws. It was decided that the Planning Commission would hear a report from them no less than quarterly and requested that County Council also hear a quarterly report. It was reported from Amy Murdock that the director of staffing of the Planning Department stated there are two positions empty and they are looking for qualified people to fill that. The new ordinance on the agenda tonight was explained to the Board by Ms. Murdock. The need for gathering of this information and sharing of the material from municipalities and businesses to be used to move Erie County forward was discussed. The Board seemed to be in favor of this being done. The next meeting will be June 13th at 6 p.m.”.

May 1, 2018

OLD BUSINESS

**Ord. 31, 2018 – PF
SA for Comm. &
Econ. Dev. Data
Collection**

Mr. Rastetter made a motion to move Ordinance 31, 2018, off the table. This was seconded by Mrs. Fatica and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance 31, 2018, “Second 2018 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$52,500 and New Line Items for Community and Economic Data Collection”. This was moved by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Foust explained to the audience that ordinances need two readings, resolutions and other items only need one reading. He further stated that the audience could look at the project screen to see what items were being discussed.

**Motion to Amend
Agenda**

Mr. Horton moved to amend the agenda and move Ordinances 37 through 40 to second readings. This was seconded by Mr. Anderson and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

**Ord. 36, 2018 – Amend
The County Purch.
Code**

Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 36, 2018, “Amending the Erie County Purchasing Code Contained in Article III, Section 1(G)(1) of the Administrative Code of Erie County”.

**Ord. 37, 2018 – LF
SA in 2017 Deferred
Rev. for District Center
Library**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 37, 2018, “Second 2018 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$21,496 in 2017 Deferred Revenue for District Center Library”. This was moved by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 38, 2018 – LF
SA for Teen Reading
Lounge Grant**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 38, 2018, “Third 2018 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,000 for Teen Reading Lounge Grant”. This was moved by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 39, 2018 – LF
SA for Increase in
Fees Collected**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 39, 2018, “Fourth 2018 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$2,300 for Increase in Fees Collected”. This was moved by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 40, 2018 – GF
Rev. Exp. & Creation
Of Line for PennDOT
Grant**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 40, 2018, “2018 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$500 and Creation of Line Item for PennDOT Grant”. This was moved by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

May 1, 2018

**Ord. 41, 2018 – LF
SA in Add’l Custodial
Exp. For Inc. Library
Security**

Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 41, 2018, “Fifth 2018 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$13,638 in Additional Custodial Expenditures for Increased Library Security”.

**Ord. 42, 2018 – GF SA
In Add’l Custodial
Exp. For Inc. Library
Security**

Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 42, 2018, “Seventeenth 2018 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$27,276 in Additional Custodial Expenditures for Increased Library Security”.

**BOARD/AUTHORITY
AdPPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Horton moved to approve the following appointments in one vote. This was seconded by Mrs. Fatica and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

- Appointment of Charles Ramsey to the Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Appointment of Ms. Pat Davis to the Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Appointment of Charlie Hefner to the Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Appointment of Chief Dan Spizarny to the Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Appointment of Terri Pomorski to the Erie County MH/ID Board
- Appointment of Heather May Caspar to the Erie County MH/ID Board

There being no further business, the meeting then adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary
